

governments, businesses, nonprofit organizations, or State governments; and

(G) identify whether written program goals are available for each applicable program.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than January 1, 2017, the Secretary, in consultation with the agency heads described in clauses (ii) through (xi) of subsection (a)(2)(B), shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) a recommendation of whether any applicable program should be eliminated or consolidated, including any legislative changes that would be necessary to eliminate or consolidate applicable programs; and

(2) methods to improve the applicable programs by establishing program goals or increasing collaboration to reduce any potential overlap or duplication, taking into account—

(A) the 2011 report of the Government Accountability Office entitled “Federal Initiatives for the Nonfederal Sector Could Benefit from More Interagency Collaboration”; and

(B) the report of the Government Accountability Office entitled “2012 Annual Report: Opportunities to Reduce Duplication, Overlap and Fragmentation, Achieve Savings, and Enhance Revenue”.

(d) ANALYSES.—Not later than January 1, 2017, the Secretary, in consultation with the agency heads described in clauses (ii) through (xi) of subsection (a)(2)(B), shall identify—

(1) which applicable programs were specifically authorized by Congress; and

(2) which applicable programs are carried out solely under the discretionary authority of the Secretary or any agency head described in clauses (ii) through (xi) of subsection (a)(2)(B).

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now vote on these amendments en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on these amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, if I could just say, I so appreciate our colleagues working in such a bipartisan fashion to work through these eight amendments and set votes for these amendments tomorrow. We are making good progress on this legislation. I hope our colleagues will give attention to these matters so tomorrow we can move further on some more votes to clear up the remaining issues before us on this bill.

I appreciate all our colleagues working together in earnest and the chair of the committee to make sure we have made this progress so far today. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the amendments en bloc.

The amendments (Nos. 2970, 2989, 2991, 3119, 3019, 3066, 3137, and 3056, as modified) were agreed to en bloc.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 458.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ricardo A. Aguilera, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I know of no further debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any further debate?

Hearing none, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Aguilera nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the anniversary of the signing of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

Lilly Ledbetter is an inspiring woman and a courageous trailblazer. She fought the system in her workplace and the courtroom. She was a long-standing and loyal employee at the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company for 19 years. But then she found out that Goodyear thought she was worth less than her male counterparts. A jury found Goodyear owed her almost \$400,000 in backpay, but the Supreme Court said that she was too late. When Justice Ginsburg read her dissent from the bench, she called for Congress to fix it, so we went to work.

It has been over 7 years since we passed this historic legislation. I was so proud to lead the charge in the Senate to keep the courthouse doors open to sue for discrimination. This wasn't an easy road. When we lost the first

vote on this bill, I called upon the women in the Senate and across America to put their lipstick on, square their shoulders, and suit up to fight for an American revolution.

We did just that, and the Lilly Ledbetter Act became the first bill that President Obama signed into law in 2009.

Passing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was a big accomplishment—but our work is far from done. We need to finish what we started by passing the Paycheck Fairness Act. The Lilly Ledbetter Act kept the courthouse door open, but the Paycheck Fairness Act will make it more difficult to discriminate in the first place.

Women are tired of being paid crumbs. Women still only make 79 cents for every dollar a man makes, and it is even worse for women of color—African-American women earn 62 cents on the dollar, and Hispanic women earn 54 cents. By retirement, the average woman loses \$431,000 to the pay gap. This affects Social Security, pensions, and retirement security. Everybody says, “Oh you've come a long way,” but women have only gained 20 cents in 50 years.

We will not take no for an answer. We will continue to demand equal pay for all. We are going to change the Federal law books, so women get change in their family checkbooks.

NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, as National School Choice Week came to a close last week, I want to highlight the important role school choice plays in our education system in Arkansas and across the country.

I am the proud graduate of Arkansas's public schools and the son of a public school teacher and principal. Throughout my life, I was blessed with wonderful parents, teachers, and coaches who taught the skills, knowledge, and values needed for success in the workforce. Unfortunately, not all children have the same experience.

Dardanelle High School was the right choice for me, but the local public school isn't always the right fit for everyone. Too many children aren't receiving the attention or education they deserve. This is especially true in areas with poor performing schools. But it is not always about the quality of education; sometimes local schools cannot make adequate accommodations for a child's religious beliefs or personal needs. Quite simply, one size fits all isn't the key to success for education.

That is why I believe in school choice.

Parents—not politicians and bureaucrats—know what is best for their children. We should empower them and ensure they have access to alternatives to the traditional public system. This includes home schooling, charter schools, and private and religious schools. That way, every child will receive the type of education that best fits their learning style.